

Council for Basic Education
Academy for Teaching Excellence
Carol Stoel, Project Director

Goal: improving teacher quality;

Summary: The Academy for Teaching Excellence has developed and implemented a professional development plan designed to provide a safe environment for teachers to share with peers their students work and reflect on feedback about their assignments, teaching strategies, and assessments. Using the feedback from colleagues, they reconsider their assignments, teaching strategies, and assessments to determine what revisions might contribute to improved student achievement. The program provides a series of face to face and online professional development opportunities in which teachers learn a process for analyzing and reflecting on student work. The series of seminars focus on topics such as "Inquiry, Assessment, Knowledge versus Understanding, and Misconceptions.

Purpose: The process bridges the gap between where teachers are and where they need to be to meet the expectations of teaching and learning. Through the collection and analysis of student work by colleagues, teachers get useful insights to inform and shape classroom practice. Teachers share cases of student work in which they describe "what will students learn?" Other parts of the case includes a description of the assessment and scoring mechanism that further illustrates what students are expected to learn, samples of student work which demonstrate three levels of achievement. Teachers also share for discussion their reflection or comments on what worked and what didn't work.

Accomplishments/Results: The project has been very successful with over 250 teachers currently participating in the face to face and online seminars. An evaluation of the project is available from SRI.

Plans for the next 12 months: From all who are participating, moving into lesson study has become an added component. We will be adding this component to our third year participants as well as scaling up. We will be moving into other districts using a model that will prepare a local cadre of science and mathematics teachers who will facilitate the process in their district.

For additional information go to www.edc.org/CCT/saw2000/ or www.a-t-e.org